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REPORT

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EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK, "VISIBILITY AND CAMOUFLAGE OF SHIPS"

Engr-Maj I. V. Levitin  
Stalin Prize Laureate

The publisher's preface describes the book, Visibility and Camouflage of Ships as follows:

"This book examines problems concerning the visual camouflage of ships. The material is based on the latest work of Soviet scientists in this field and is intended for use by naval officers with a general naval education.

"The first chapter contains a short history of the introduction and development of camouflage in our fleet. Chapters II - IV deal with daylight conditions, the optical qualities of background, optical illusions, and the visibility of ships at sea. Chapters V - VIII describe all forms of visual camouflage, and Chapter IX includes information on methods employed to distinguish a camouflaged ship from its background" including the use of infrared equipment, color filters, and polarized filters." (1)

The author's preface discusses camouflage requirements, and stresses the continuing importance of visual camouflage as follows:

"Camouflage must always confuse the observer, the methods used depending on the enemy's approach. Thus, if the enemy is employing visual means of observation such as the eye, optical instruments, or photographic apparatus, we must employ dazzle painting, smokescreens, and natural camouflage. If, on the other hand, the enemy is using radar, we must use special methods based upon a study of the characteristics of his radar transmissions.

"Opinions have recently been expressed that the introduction of radar renders obsolete the use of visual camouflage. This view is, of course, completely unsound. Inasmuch as visual sighting is still used at sea, visual camouflage is obviously essential. The value of visual sighting often lies in the fact

- 1 -

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that the observer is completely unseen and the enemy is unaware that he is being watched. On the other hand, radar, in spite of its good points, is not a secure means of observation, for the enemy can detect radar transmissions and adopt appropriate countermeasures."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Brief Historical Review of the Development of Camouflage in Our Navy	10
II. Natural Daylight Conditions and the Optical Properties of Backgrounds	
A. Natural Daylight Conditions	17
B. Optical Properties of Backgrounds	22
III. Vision in Daylight Conditions	
A. The Eye as a Receiver of Radiant Energy. Visual Functions	37
B. Optical Illusions	43
C. Color Vision	48
IV. Visibility of Ships	
A. Optical Phenomena of Atmosphere and Visibility	50
B. Basic Principles of the Visibility of Ships at Sea	55
C. Measurement of the Visibility Range of Ships	63
V. Camouflage Painting of Ships	
A. Basic Problems and Types of Camouflage Painting	69
B. Protective Painting of Ships	70
C. Ship Camouflage	72
VI. Decorative Camouflage of Ships	
A. General Properties of Decorative Camouflage. Materials Used	94
B. Screens and Covers	97
C. Deforming Structures and Dummies	99
VII. Smoke Screens	
A. Nature and Methods of Making Smoke Screens at Sea	103
B. Optical Properties of Smoke Screens. Camouflaging Effect of the Screen	105

- 2 -

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50X1-HUM

	<u>Page</u>
VIII. Screening of Ships' Lights (Darken Ship)	
A. Problems Connected With Screening Ships' Lights	110
B. Natural Night Conditions. Night Vision	112
C. Design of Screened Lights	121
D. Luminescent Materials and Their Use in Ships	130
IX. Methods of Increasing the Perceptibility of Ships (Decamouflaging)	
A. Problems and Methods of Decamouflaging	138
B. Perceptive Light Filters in the Visible Spectrum (Color-Contrast Light Filters)	140
C. Polarized Light Filters	141
D. Methods of Decamouflaging by Invisible Rays [Infrared and ultraviolet]	144
Bibliography [Lists 12 Soviet works]	147

- E N D -

- 3 -

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